



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

SPOT COMMENTARY

24 February 1991
1500 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #602

Military Developments

Another Scud Attack on Saudi Arabia

[REDACTED] Preliminary press reports indicate that Patriot missiles were fired, but as of 1400 EST there were no reports of casualties or damage on the ground. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Iraqi units also offered little resistance to Kuwaiti forces that have penetrated as far as the outskirts of Al Jahra north of Kuwait City, [REDACTED]

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Political Developments

Iraqi Political Developments

Saddam chaired a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party today, according to press reports. Meanwhile, Baghdad Radio is reporting that Iraqi troops had "contained the ground offensive of 30 nations" and "victory is sweet."

International Reaction Generally Supportive

West European reaction has been overwhelmingly supportive of the allied ground offensive; Beijing and Moscow have expressed regret while Arab statements have been mixed.

- UK Prime Minister Major predicted that the "offensive will be short but could involve fierce fighting."
- German Chancellor Kohl said this morning that the US-led coalition forces had no choice but to launch a ground offensive to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Foreign Minister Genscher joined Kohl in expressing support for the allied offensive and Defense Minister Stoltenberg appealed to the Iraqi military to overthrow Saddam Husayn. The opposition SPD, however, regretted the ground war started before giving the Soviet peace plan more of a chance.
- A French government statement said President Francois Mitterrand had "given the order to commit French ground forces to the liberation of Kuwait, according to pre-arranged plans."

Other governments offering public support include Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, and Poland. Turkish Prime Minister Akbulut reiterated his country's intention not to enter the war unless Iraq attacks Turkey. The only discordant tones have come from Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky and Foreign Minister Mock who were both "deeply shocked" by the outbreak of the ground war. They nevertheless put the blame on Saddam Husayn's "intractability" as well as the "limited possibilities" of those favoring negotiations.

Arab reaction has come along predictable lines:

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